19. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

20. The method according to Claim 8 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

21. The method according to Claim 9 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

B1 cont.

22. The method according to Claim 10 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

23. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

24. The method according to Claim 12 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

25. The method according to Claim 13 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

26. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

B1 cont.

27. The method according to Claim 15 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

28. The method according to Claim 17 wherein the aqueous solution has a pH of 7 or higher.

Please amend Claims 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 as follows:

B2

7. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or an alkali metal salt thereof and an alkali metal salt of picolimic acid.

B3

9. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said chelating agent is in a concentration of 0.005 mol/lit.

B4

11. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims] Claim 1 [to 4], wherein said aqueous solution further contains an amine compound.